

Message Text

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12

ACTION SY-05

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P R 140550Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4617
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : ASEC, ABLD
SUBJECT : SECURITY WALL FOR AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

KUWAIT FOR RSO

REF: STATE 160711

1. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITHIN EMBASSY, AND CONSULTATIONS WITH ARCHITECT ABOUT COST, WE COME TO CONCLUSIONL THAT "OPEN VIEW" WALL AROUND AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE OLFERS NO ADVANTAGES TO SOLID MASONRY WALL, AND IN FACT HAS SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT DISADVANTAGES. IN FIRST PLACE, WE ARE TOLD BY ARCHITECTS THAT MAIN PART OF COST OF WALL IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO FOUNDATIONS, WHICH MUST BE LAID DOWN AT CONSIDERABLE DEPTH AND BUTTRESSED BECAUSE OF LOOSE AND SHIFTING SAND ON SITE. IN ARCHITECT'S OPINIONN, FOUNDATION WOULD HAVE TO BE JUST ABOUT THE SAME WHETHER WALL BUILT ON TOP OF IT IS CEMENT BLOCK MASONRY OR SOME KIND OF IRON GRILL. PRECISE COST WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON WHAT KIND OF GRILLWORK CHOSEN, BUT ARCHITECT BELIEVES ANYTHING HALFWAY PRESENTABLE IN APPEAR- ANCE WOULD BE JUST ABOUT SAME COST AND POSSIBLY MORE THAN MASONRY WALL.

2. FROM SECURITY POINT OF VIEW, WHILE WE APPRECIATE POINT MADE THAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES VISIBILITY THROUGH WALL COULD IMPROVE SECURITY, WE DO NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE TRUE IN THE CASE OF THIS PARTICULAR SITE. SITE IS RATHER SMALL, AND WITH GUARD STATIONED AT GUARD HOUSE AT ENTRANCE GATE, RESI-
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DENCE ITSELF BLOCKS VIEW OF MAJOR PORTION OF PERIMETER OF WALL.

WHILE WE HOPE TO SET UP PROCEDURE WITH LOCAL POLICE TO HAVE GUARD MAKE FOVT PATROLS OF WALL AT NIGHT, IT IS FACT OF LIFE HERE THAT GUARDS ASSIGNED TO THESE DETAILS ARE BOTH LAZY AND UNDISCIPLINED AND WE MUST REALISTICALLY EXPECT THAT HE WILL NOT DO MUCH MOVING FROM HIS SPOT AT RESIDENCE ENTRANCE. WE THEREFORE THINK THAT FROM SECURITY POINT OF VIEW SOLID MASONRY WALL BLOCKING AN INTRUDER'S EASY VISIBILITY OF HOUSE AND GROUNDS, AND PRESENTING SOME DETERRENT TO DIRECTION OF SMALL ARMS FIRE AT RESIDENCE, HAS SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES.

3. SECOND CONSIDERATION IS QUESTION OF PRIVACY. SITE WE ARE DEALING WITH HERE IS SMALL AND WALL WILL NOT BE FAR FROM RESIDENCE, GARDEN AND SWIMMING POOL AREA. WE SIMPLY CANNOT HAVE AN AUDIENCE OF URGHINS OGLING THE LADIES THAT COME TO SWIM IN THE AMBASSADOR'S POOL (AND THERE IS NO DOUBT WE WOULD HAVE SUCH AUDIENCE IF WE HAD AN OPEN VIEW FENCE). MOREOVER, WHILE ADJACENT LOTS ARE AT PRESENT VACANT, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE BUILT UPON AND FUTURE PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCE OF OTHER STRUCTURES MAKES SOLID WALL ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF PRIVACY OF AMBASSADOR, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS GUESTS.

4. WE THEREFORE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH SOLID MASONRY WALL AS PLANNED. UNDER OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO ARCHITECT TO TRY TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP COST OF WALL DOWN, HE HAS REDESIGNED COPING OF WALL AND SPECIFIED CHEAPER LIGHT FIXTURES WITH RESULTING SAVING OF ABOUT DH10,000. HE HAS QUOTATION FROM CONTRACTOR TO BUILD WALL WITH THESE CHANGES FOR 145,000 DIRHAMS (US \$36,896; \$1.00 - DH 3.93)

5. AMBASSADOR IS PROCEEDING ON HOME LEAVE CONSULTATIONS JULY 20. WE HAVE MEETING SET UP WITH ARCHITECT AND CONTRACTOR SCHEDULED FOR JULY 19 IN ORDER TO TIE DOWN ALL REMAINING UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH RESIDENCE SO THAT WORK CAN PROCEED APACE AND RESIDENCE CAN BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY SHORTLY AFTER AMBASSADOR RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER. WE SHOULD SETTLE MATTER OF WALL SO THAT CONSTRUCTION CAN GET STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR FUNDING OF WALL AS PLANNED IN TIME FOR OUR MEETING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARCHITECT JULY 19.
STERNER

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